In the Claims:

1 - 29 (cancelled).

30 (currently amended). A wood-cutting knife comprising at least two spaced apart, concavely curvilinear cutting edges, wherein respective lines bisecting said cutting edges extending from respective points of intersection therewith to respective centers of curvature thereof diverge from one another, the knife having a planar front side, a spaced apart, planar back side and a beveled face connecting said front and back sides at respective outer peripheral contours thereof, wherein the outer peripheral contour of said front side includes one of said cutting edges, wherein, in a cross-section of the knife taken in a plane perpendicular to the plane of said front side and to the peripheral outer contour thereof, said beveled face defines an attack relief angle with respect to said plane, wherein said attack relief angle is in the range of 25 - 40 degrees.

31 (previously presented). The knife of claim 30, wherein said cutting edges are semi-circular.

32 (currently amended). The knife of claim 30 ~~having a planar front side, a spaced apart, planar back side and a beveled face connecting said front and back sides at respective outer peripheral contours thereof, wherein the outer peripheral contour of said front side includes one of said cutting edges, wherein, in a cross-section of the knife taken in a plane perpendicular to the~~

~~plane of said front side and to the peripheral outer contour thereof, said beveled face defines an attack angle of relief with respect to said plane, wherein said attack angle of relief is in the range of 25 - 40 degrees~~ 31, wherein said attack relief angle is constant over said beveled face.

33 (currently amended). The knife of claim 30 ~~having planar front side, a spaced apart, planar back side and a beveled face connecting said front and back sides at respective outer peripheral contours thereof, wherein the outer peripheral contour of said front side includes one of said cutting edges, wherein, in a cross-section of the knife taken in any plane perpendicular to the plane of said front side and to the peripheral outer contour thereof, said beveled face defines a substantially fixed attack angle of relief with respect to said plane~~, wherein said attack relief angle is constant over said beveled face.

34 (previously presented). The knife of claim 33 including, associated with at least one of said cutting edges, substantially linear outer perimeter portions that provide respective alignment reliefs with respect to lines tangent to the ends of said at least one of said cutting edges.

35 (previously presented). The knife of claim 34, wherein said reliefs define alignment angles of relief between said lines and said outer perimeter portions that are at least about 20 degrees.

36 (previously presented). The knife of claim 35 having four spaced apart, concave semi-circular cutting edges.

37 (previously presented). The knife of claim 36, wherein said cutting edges are spaced apart from one another with 90 degree rotational symmetry.

38 (previously presented). The knife of claim 30 including, associated with at least one of said cutting edges, substantially linear outer perimeter portions that provide respective alignment reliefs with respect to lines tangent to the ends of said at least one of said cutting edges.

39 (previously presented). The knife of claim 38, wherein said reliefs define alignment angles of relief between said lines and said outer perimeter portions that are at least about 20 degrees.

40 (previously presented). The knife of claim 39, having four spaced apart, concave semi-circular cutting edges.

41 (previously presented). The knife of claim 40, wherein said cutting edges are spaced apart from one another with 90 degree rotational symmetry.

42 (currently amended). A wood-cutting knife comprising "n" curvilinear cutting

edges, where "n" is greater than 2, spaced apart from one another with 360/n degree rotational symmetry, the knife having a planar front side, a spaced apart, planar back side and a beveled face connecting said front and back sides at respective outer peripheral contours thereof, wherein the outer peripheral contour of said front side includes one of said cutting edges, wherein, in a cross-section of the knife taken in a plane perpendicular to the plane of said front side and to the peripheral outer contour thereof, said beveled face defines an attack relief angle with respect to said plane, wherein said attack relief angle is in the range of 25 - 40 degrees.

43 (previously presented). The knife of claim 42, wherein said cutting edges are concave and semi-circular.

44 (previously presented). The knife of claim 43, where "n" = 4.

45 (previously presented). The knife of claim 44 including, associated with at least one of said cutting edges, substantially linear outer perimeter portions that provide respective alignment reliefs with respect to lines tangent to the ends of said at least one of said cutting edges.

46 (previously presented). The knife of claim 45, wherein said reliefs define alignment angles of relief between said lines and said outer perimeter portions that are at least about 20 degrees.

47 (previously presented). The knife of claim 42 including, associated with at least one of said cutting edges, substantially linear outer perimeter portions that provide respective alignment reliefs with respect to lines tangent to the ends of said at least one of said cutting edges.

48 (previously presented). The knife of claim 47, wherein said reliefs define alignment angles of relief between said lines and said outer perimeter portions that are at least about 20 degrees.

49 - 50 (cancelled).